

1. A rolling bearing cleaning method for cleaning a bearing by using a cleaning liquid, the rolling bearing including an inner ring, an outer ring, rolling elements and a retainer, comprising steps of:

flowing the cleaning liquid through the rolling bearing from the axial direction of the rolling bearing into spaces existing between raceway surfaces of the inner and outer rings and surrounding the rolling elements and the retainer.

2. A rolling bearing cleaning method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the cleaning liquid is supplied in a state where one of the inner and outer rings is fixed and the other is rotatable, whereby, while rotating the rotatable ring, the cleaning liquid is flowed through the rolling bearing.

3. A rolling bearing cleaning method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising steps of:

immersing the rolling bearing in a cleaning vessel filled with the cleaning liquid; and

cleaning the rolling bearing by the cleaning method as set forth in claim 1.

4. A rolling bearing cleaning method as set forth in claim 3, further comprising a step of:

cleaning the rolling bearing in combination with an ultrasonic cleaning.

5. A rolling bearing cleaning method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising steps of:

disposing the rolling bearing to be cleaned near a surface of the cleaning liquid filled in a cleaning vessel;

fixing one of the outer ring and the inner ring, and allowing the other ring to be free to rotate;

jetting the cleaning liquid onto the rolling elements from obliquely above the rolling bearing in the circumferential direction thereof.

6. A rolling bearing cleaning method as set forth in claim 5, wherein the jetting the cleaning liquid is performed with high pressure.

7. A rolling bearing cleaning method as set forth in claim 5, further comprising a step of:

cleaning the rolling bearing in combination with an ultrasonic cleaning.

8. A rolling bearing cleaning method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising steps of:

disposing the rolling bearing to be cleaned near a surface of the cleaning liquid filled in a cleaning vessel;

fixing one of the outer ring and inner ring; and

rotating the other ring.

9. A rolling bearing cleaning method as set forth in claim 8, wherein the other ring is rotated by a motor or an air turbine.

10. A rolling bearing cleaning method as set forth in claim 8, further comprising a step of:

cleaning the rolling bearing in combination with an ultrasonic cleaning.

11. A rolling bearing cleaning method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising steps of:

cleaning the rolling bearing by flowing the cleaning liquid through an inner portion of the rolling bearing without rotating the same; and

cleaning the rolling bearing by flowing the cleaning liquid through an inner portion of the rolling bearing while rotating the same, after execution of the non-rotation cleaning step.

12. A rolling bearing cleaning method as set forth in claim 11, wherein the non-rotating cleaning step is executed in combination with an ultrasonic cleaning.